



# Seven Eight Artists

## Jacob Benda

Organist

### *Long Biography*

Highly regarded for his virtuosity and poetic interpretations, **Jacob Benda** has been featured as a solo recitalist at cathedrals, festivals, and universities throughout the United States. Recent engagements include performances at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis, MN, Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans, LA, St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in Jackson, MS, Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle, WA, the 2018 East Texas Pipe Organ Festival, Memorial Chapel at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, and the Main Auditorium at the University of North Texas.

During the past three years Jacob Benda has had the privilege of performing organ dedication recitals and premiering new works written by award-winning composers. A highlight of 2018 was his performance of three statewide premieres (Minnesota, Mississippi, Louisiana) of Pamela Decker's 40-minute monument for organ solo, *The Seven Last Words and Triumph of Christ*; he had the distinct honor of serving as the understudy to Douglas Cleveland for the world premiere of the same piece at the 2018 American Guild of Organists National Convention held in Kansas City. During the same year he collaborated with classical guitarists Tanja Mirić and Darka Kooienga, *Duo Mirić*, as they offered the world premiere performance of *Partita on 'In dulci júbilo' for organ and two guitars* by James Sclater. Most recently, the Berlin-based composer, Gary Bachlund, composed his *Chromatic Chaconne and Fugue in C minor* for Jacob Benda which he will perform during the upcoming season 2019-20 season.

## Jacob Benda, organist

Since 2010, he has championed the music of prolific American organist and composer Clarence Mader (1904-1971). In 2017, he was invited by Yale University to lecture on the life and music of Clarence Mader for the Graduate Organ Seminar, and in 2014 he lectured on the same topic at the American Guild of Organists National Convention held in Boston, MA.

His landmark recording, *Music at Midnight, A Tonal Palette, Organ Music by Clarence Mader*, (Centaur Label, CRC 3361), was applauded by the *American Record Guide* as:

*"an important picture of American organ art in the 20th century...talented young American organist Jacob Benda performs with confident rhythmic stability and polished technical assurance."*

In addition to his demanding performance schedule Jacob Benda is a published author, producer and member of various executive boards. His recent article, *Unveiling the Mystery: A Pianist's Discovery of the Organ*, was published in the September 2018 issue of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) e-journal and met with great enthusiasm as it offers direction to musicians seeking to explore the expansive world of organ playing. As a member of the Board of Directors of the Ruth and Clarence Mader Memorial Scholarship Fund, he is producing a documentary based on the unique life of Clarence Mader; this will offer an in-depth look into his music, visual art, poetry, and influence on American organists & organ music during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As an active member of the AGO, he is the current Sub-Dean for the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and will serve as chairman for the 2021 AGO North Central Regional Convention.

Dr. Benda has held posts as music director and organist at both Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches in the United States, and currently serves as Director of Sacred Music and Liturgy at the historic Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis, MN. In 2015 he earned his doctor of musical arts degree (DMA) from Louisiana State University under the mentorship of concert organist Herndon Spillman, protégé of Maurice Duruflé.

Jacob Benda is represented by Seven Eight Artists.

*Current as of September 2019.*

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